

Appl. No. : 09/643,172  
Filed : August 21, 2000

PAHTL.047A  
Knobbe, Martens, Olson & Bear LLP

would not be a serious burden. Applicants respectfully note that Examiner has already substantively examined claims 1-27 of the instant application. Applicants believe that Examiner's search and examination of the claims was thorough. Applicants responded substantively to all of Examiner's rejections from the Office Action mailed December 7, 2001. Furthermore, Applicants neither amended nor added any claims in response to Examiner's last Office Action. Accordingly, because Examiner has already searched the subject matter of all pending claims, and because Examiner has demonstrated the ability to examine all pending claims, Applicants submit that retaining all pending claims in a single application would not present a serious burden on Examiner.

### CONCLUSION

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Examiner's restriction requirement is not proper. Applicants believe that Applicants' response to Examiner's Office Action mailed December 7, 2001 overcomes all outstanding rejections of the pending claims and earnestly request an early allowance of said claims. If Examiner believes that a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this application, Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned. Because this communication is being filed within the one month shortened statutory period, Applicants believe that no fee is due. If Applicants are mistaken and a fee is due, please charge to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: June 18, 2002

By: 

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